

A NEW MOTH COLLECTING GUN.

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The illustration shows the general principle and mechanical construction of this moth collecting device probably better than a lot of description. I have termed it a "gun" because of its suggestive shape and single-handed operation. There is every reason to believe that it can be used for capturing specimens in certain other orders of insects as well as Lepidoptera.

When a desired moth is seen resting on a lamp-post, wall or lighted sheet, you simply put the mouth of the gun over the specimen, having pressed the trigger which opens the trap-door of the bottle and the insect flies inside. With the pressure on the trigger a small electric bulb illuminates the object and the interior of the bottle. The release of the trigger prevents the escape of the catch. The object of the light is to view any individual before capture to see if you really want it and also to cause it to flutter back into the gun and down into the bottle where it can be seen in time for the release of the trigger. The electric lighting feature is not intended to lure distant moths to a collector, but is simply a great help in finding and examining specimens in dark corners and in getting them unharmed into the killing jar. The old way of bottling moths was to rapidly remove a big cork stopper and put the opening of the container sideways over a specimen and then by a sleight-of-hand performance, get the cork back in before the captive flew out. This operation required both hands and sometimes valuable specimens escaped or were otherwise damaged. The single-handed operation of this gun can be appreciated because it leaves the left hand free for self support or otherwise climbing around. Cyanide, ether or any killing agency can be used in the bottle which readily unscrews from the base of the gun. All metal parts are well constructed of light material and lacquered black. Two standard dry cells are required and are as easily replaceable as those in a flash light.

This gun will be found very useful to all collectors and especially to those going into the tropics or making short summer trips to distant points where time is valuable and the best kind of an entomological equipment required.